

# Building Roads and Preserving Cultural Resources

Two Important Jobs  
of Kentucky's State Government

# When the early settlers came...

- Can you imagine what it would be like if there were no roads in Kentucky? That is what it was like when the early settlers came. There were no roads at all, just pathways through the forests and prairies.



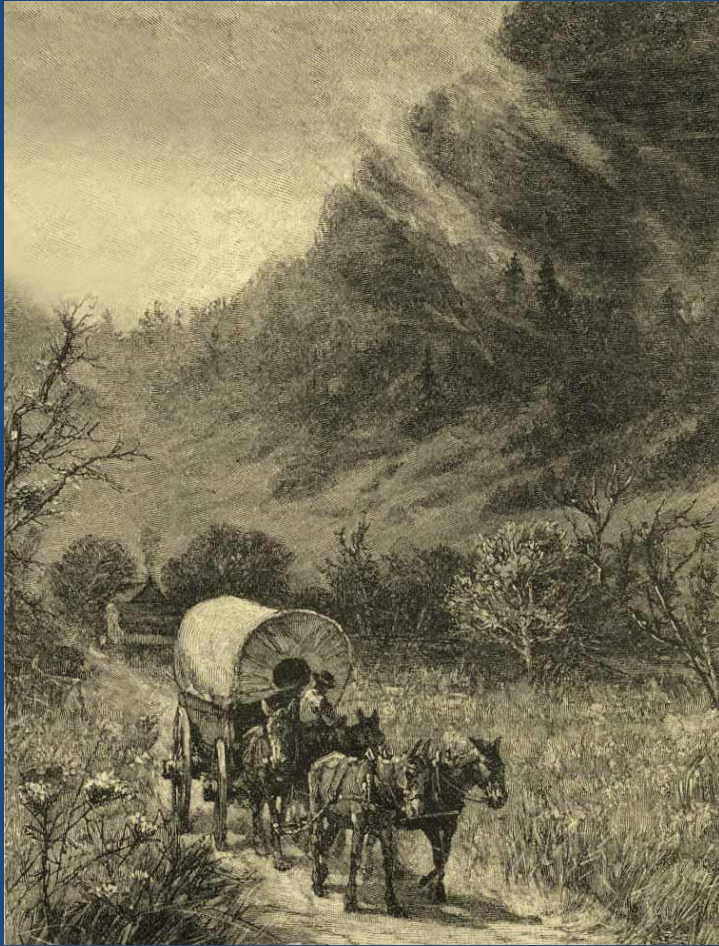
Source: [Elmer L. Foote Lantern Slide Collection, ca. 1900-1915](#)

Daniel Boone Escorting Settlers  
Through Cumberland Gap.  
Painting by George Caleb  
Bingham, 1851



- Daniel Boone built the first road in Kentucky in 1775 from the Cumberland Gap into central Kentucky. It followed a Native American trail.
- It was called the Wilderness Road because it went through the wilderness. It was rough, steep, and so narrow that people could only travel on foot or horseback.

Source: Library of  
Congress



One of the first things that that the new **Kentucky state government** did when Kentucky became a state in 1792 was to make the road wider so that wagons and carriages could travel on it.



# Building Better Roads

- It was important to have wider roads so that settlers could bring all the things they needed to make a home in the wilderness – their tools and seeds to plant in their gardens as well as their clothes and food and their animals.



Source: [UK Radio Photographic Collection](#)

# Kentucky Road Building Today

- Kentucky's state government is still working to make Kentucky's roads better and safer, but the problems today are different than they were in the early days of statehood.

Source: Kentucky Public Transit Association





# KENTUCKY

## TRANSPORTATION CABINET

Designing, building and maintaining safe roads and bridges is one of the important jobs of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. KYTC is one of many agencies that are part of the Kentucky state government.



# How do they know where new roads are needed?

- They listen to the concerns of communities and the public.
- They study the flow of traffic and pay attention to any places where there are lots of traffic jams or accidents.

- Photo of the TRIMARC Operations Center from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet website.





# An Example

- Every day many people and goods cross the Ohio River from Indiana to Louisville or from Louisville to Indiana. These people and goods travel for many different reasons.

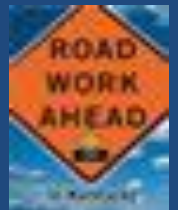
The John F. Kennedy Memorial Bridge carried an average of 136,000 vehicles per day.



Source : [creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

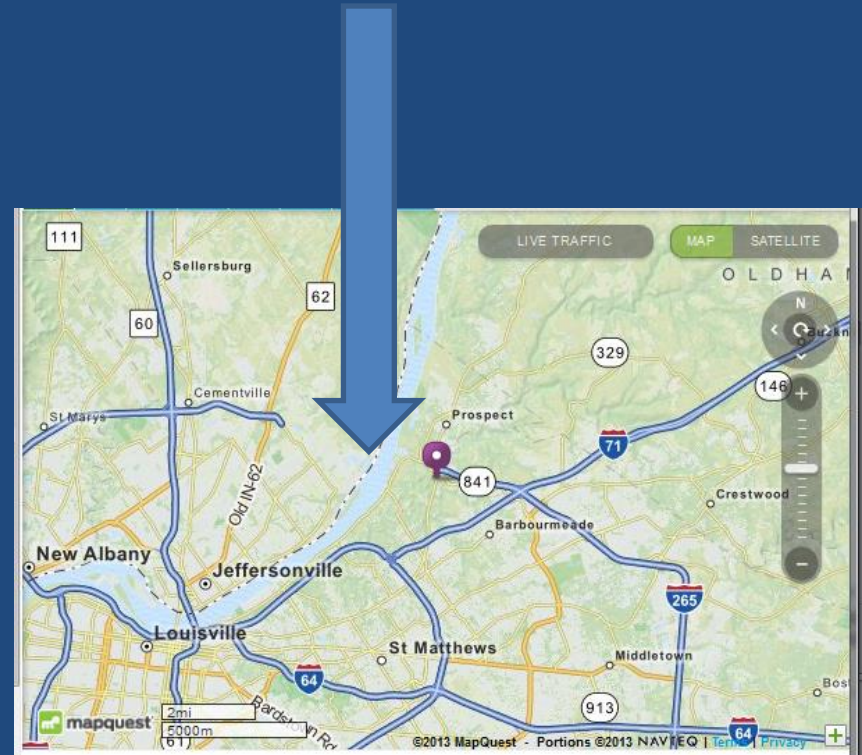
# New Roads, New Bridges

- That is a lot of traffic! With that much traffic, traffic jams are more likely to happen. So are accidents. In 2003 the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Indiana Department of Transportation began working together to build two new bridges between Louisville and southern Indiana.



# Connecting Two Roads

- The plan called for one of the bridges to be built northeast of Louisville.
- Look at the map. What makes this a good place for a bridge? Can you see that it would connect two roads?

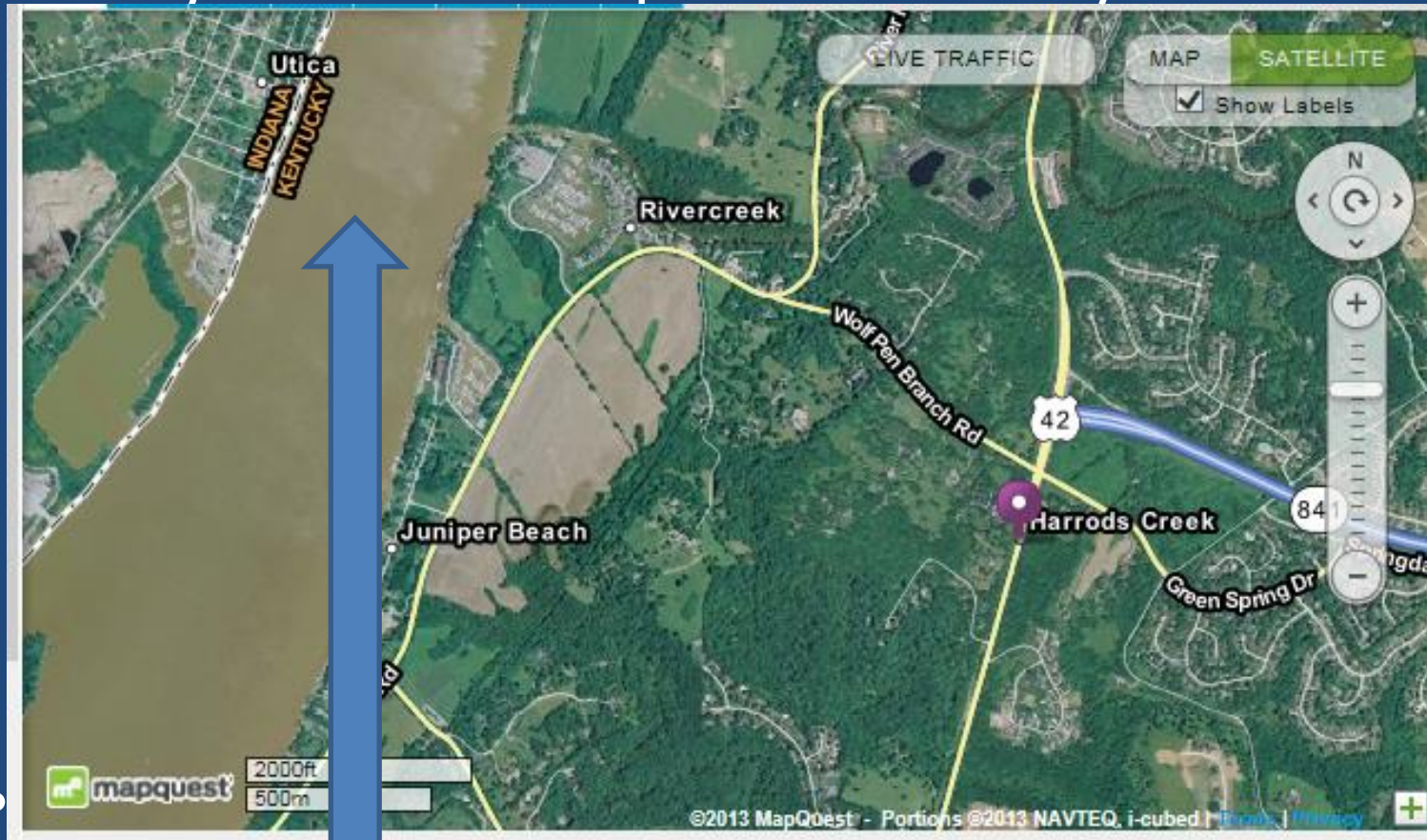


# Many Changes!

- You can see why it made sense to build a bridge at this place, but it would mean many changes for the people who live there.
- Look at the satellite images in the next slides. What can you tell about the community of Harrods Creek?

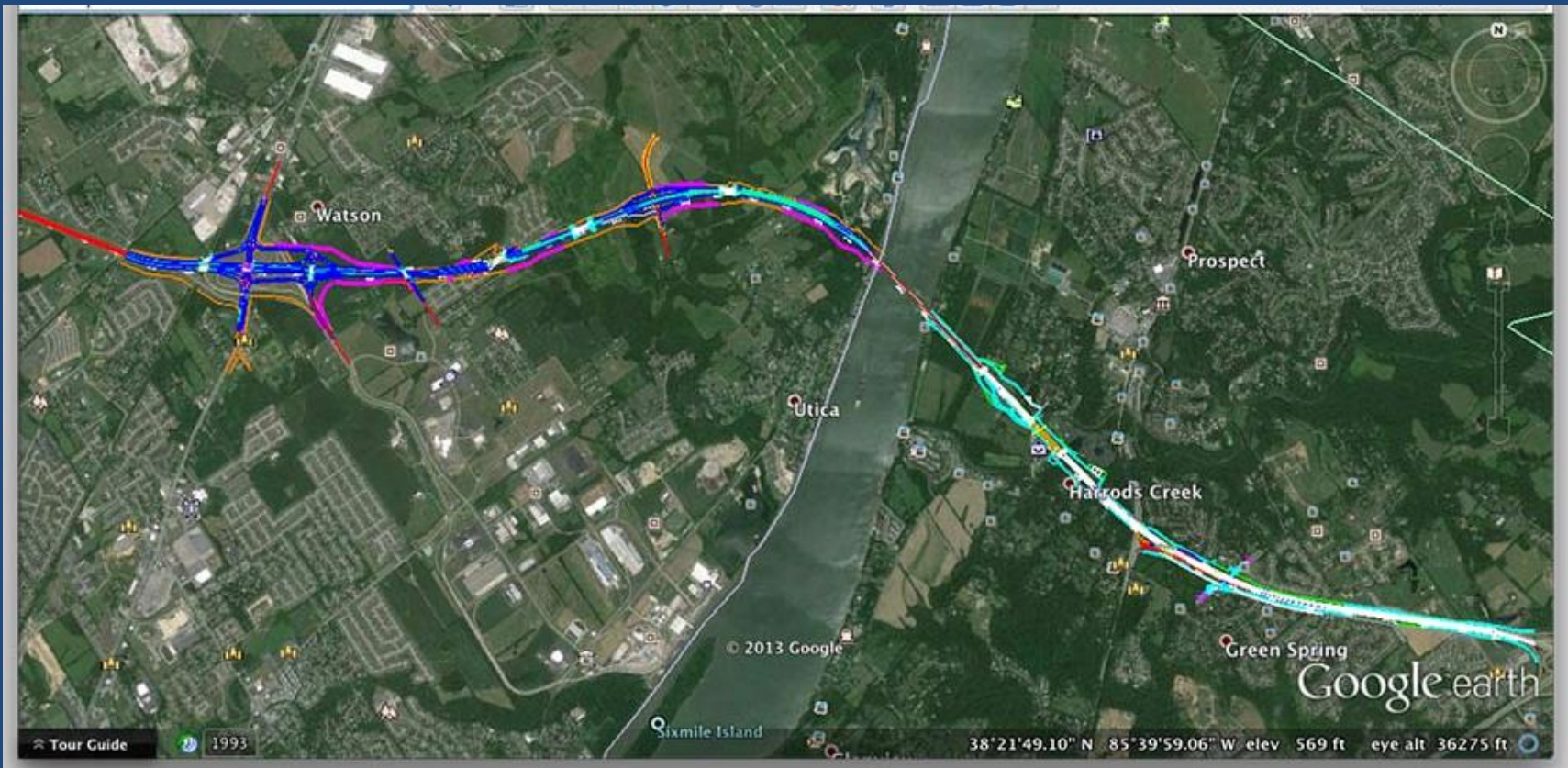


Can you find the river? It is brown. Can you see the green trees and fields? The roads in Harrod's Creek are very small. It is a quiet community.



• site for the new bridge

When the new bridge was built, there would be lots more traffic going through this area.



# Who Pays for New Roads?

- How does the government pay for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges?
- “We all pay for roads and bridges,” explains Jeff Moore with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. “We pay for them with fuel taxes, vehicle taxes, and tolls. And therefore they belong to all of us.”



# Conflict and Compromise





- When a new road or bridge is built, the Transportation Cabinet tries to find the best solution for everyone. It isn't always easy! Sometimes people disagree about what should be done. This could lead to *conflict*. It is the responsibility of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to find the solution that best meets everyone's needs. This is called a *compromise*.



# Key Words

- **Conflict:** a disagreement or argument about something important
- **Compromise:** a middle way between two extremes
- How does the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet make sure everyone has a part in making decisions?

They develop websites, create surveys, hold meetings and invite the public to come talk about the project.



## **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

### **Downtown Bridge - Section 2**

### **TONIGHT'S MEETING**





**4-8 p.m. Self-Guided Tour of Exhibit Stations:**

- About the Project
- Team Information
- Bridge Type Selection Process
- Public Involvement
- Context Sensitive Design
- Project Parameters
- Bridge Types
- Environmental Issues
- DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) Involvement
- "View of the Bridge" Interactive Exhibit

**5:00 p.m. Presentation & Discussion\***

**6:30 p.m. Presentation & Discussion\***

\* These presentations are the same.

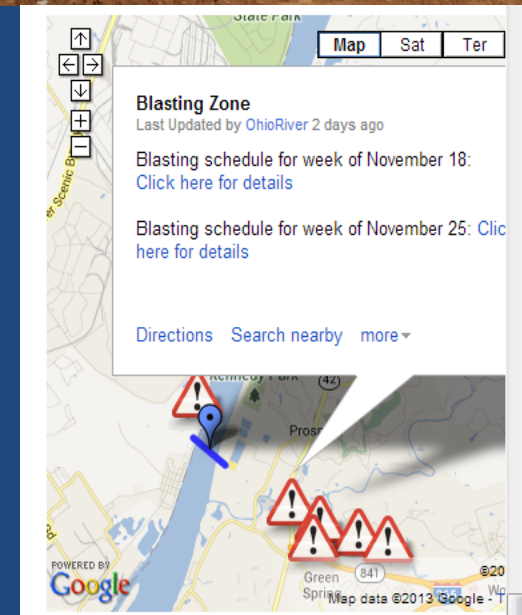


# Taking Care of People

- Back in 1792 there was plenty of space to build roads, but today there are many more people, houses, and businesses in Kentucky. Sometimes a house or a business is located where a new road has to be built. When that happens, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet buys the house or business for a fair price and helps the people find a new place where they can live or run their business.

# Construction

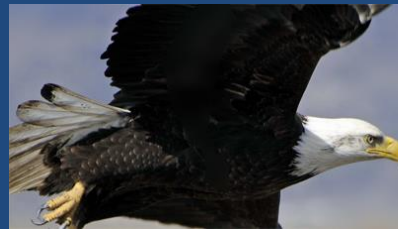
- The East End bridge project would take three or four years to complete.
- The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet lets everyone know when there is blasting in a construction zone so that they can avoid traffic jams.





# Taking Care of the Environment

- They work with other agencies in the state and federal government. They work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to plan how to take care of the environment.



## Endangered Species Act 40th Anniversary

*Protecting Imperiled Animals  
and Plants Since 1973*

# Taking Care of Cultural Resources

- They work with the Kentucky Heritage Council to consider the cultural resources of the community.
- Cultural resources are the places, buildings, and stories that are important to a community's history.



# What Cultural Resources Are Important to the Community?

- They talk to the people who live in the community and find out what is most important to them about their community.
- They consider the buildings that are most important to the history of the community.
- They make sure that the history of buildings that might be affected are recorded for the future.
- In this way they preserve the community's cultural resources.

# An Historic African American School

- In the Harrod's Creek community, one place that is very important to the people is the Jefferson Jacob School. It was built around 1918 and was used as a school until 1957.



*Source: NRHP Nomination Form*



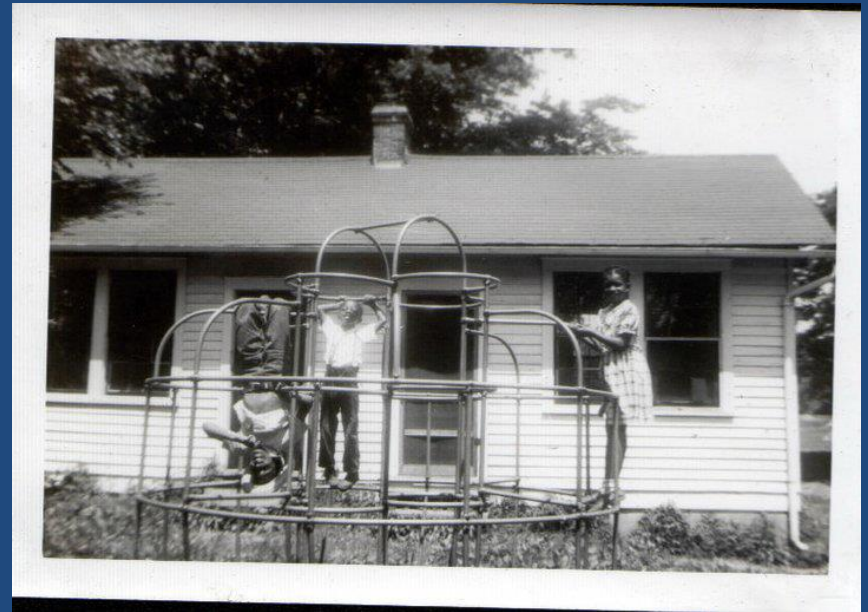
# An Important Story

- The school building is on a side street and would not be changed by the new road. The people in Harrod's Creek wanted to be sure that the story of why the building is so important would not be forgotten.
- **Students and Faculty at Jefferson Jacob School, 1927**
- Source: Ms. Lonzetta Howard



# Why Is It Important?

- Jefferson Jacob School was built during a time when African American children were not allowed to attend schools with white children. This was called segregation.



*Source: NRHP Nomination Form*

# More Than a School

- The people of the community helped to build the school. They were proud to have a good school for their children to attend.
- The building was also a place for community events.



*Source: NRHP Nomination Form*

# Preserving Memories

The memories of people who attended the school have been recorded. Even though the community might change, this cultural resource was preserved.



*Source: NRHP Nomination Form*



# Local Connection: Meeting Your Community's Transportation Needs

- What about your community? Are some of your bridges too small for today's needs? Are there roads where it is difficult to see ahead and many accidents occur? How will your community's transportation needs change in the future?
- Source: A Context For Common
- Historic Bridge Types
- NCHRP Project 25-25, Task 15



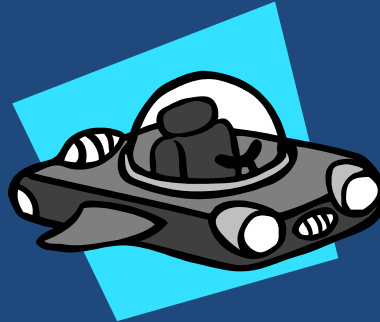
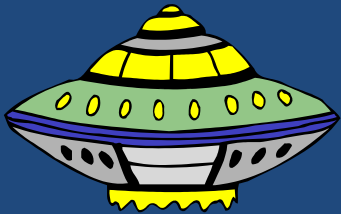
# Local Connection:

## Preserving Your Cultural Resources

- What if a new road were built in your community.
- Why would a new road be built?
- Are there buildings that you think should be considered? Why are they important?
- What stories or memories should be recorded for the future?
- What are your community's cultural resources?

# The Future of Transportation

- The cars and highways of today are very different from the wagons and trails used by early settlers. What do you imagine transportation will be like 50 years from now? 100 years from now?



- *Planning is the management of change-*  
*Jeff Moore KYTC*